

*Betula pumila* / *Chamaedaphne calyculata* / *Carex lasiocarpa* Shrubland (Bog Birch - Leatherleaf Poor Fen)

COMMON NAME	Bog Birch / Leatherleaf / Wiregrass Sedge Poor Fen Shrubland
SYNONYM	Bog Birch - Leatherleaf Poor Fen
PHYSIOGNOMIC CLASS	Shrubland (III)
PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBCLASS	Deciduous shrubland (III.B)
PHYSIOGNOMIC GROUP	Cold-deciduous shrubland (III.B.2)
PHYSIOGNOMIC SUBGROUP	Natural/Semi-natural (III.B.2.N)
FORMATION	Saturated cold-deciduous shrubland (III.B.2.N.g)
ALLIANCE	BETULA PUMILA - (SALIX SPP.) SATURATED SHRUBLAND ALLIANCE

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENCE LEVEL 2

USFWS WETLAND SYSTEM PALUSTRINE

RANGE

***Voyageurs National Park***

This type is only mapped in the Rat Root River peatland..

***Globally***

This association is found in Minnesota, Michigan, Wisconsin, Manitoba, Ontario, and possibly Maine.

ENVIRONMENTAL DESCRIPTION

***Voyageurs National Park***

Stands are found on the margins of water tracks of large peatlands (Harris *et al.* 1996).

***Globally***

Stands are found on the margins of water tracks of large peatlands, or in the interior of small basins that are relatively isolated from run-off (Harris *et al.* 1996).

MOST ABUNDANT SPECIES

***Voyageurs National Park***

Stratum

Tall shrub  
Short shrub  
Forb  
Graminoid  
Nonvascular

Species

*Betula pumila*, *Alnus incana*, *Salix* spp.  
*Chamaedaphne calyculata*  
*Maianthemum trifolium*  
*Carex lacustris*, *Carex trisperma*  
*Sphagnum* spp.

***Globally***

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*Sphagnum* spp.

CHARACTERISTIC SPECIES

***Voyageurs National Park***

*Betula pumila*, *Alnus incana*, *Salix* spp.

***Globally***

*Betula pumila*, *Alnus incana*, *Salix* spp.

VEGETATION DESCRIPTION

***Voyageurs National Park***

This type was not visited at Voyageurs NP. The following description is based on information from northwestern

USGS-NPS Vegetation Mapping Program  
Voyageurs National Park

Ontario. The shrub cover is at least 25%, dominated by a combination of *Betula pumila* and ericaceous shrubs, including *Andromeda polifolia*, *Chamaedaphne calyculata*, *Ledum groenlandicum*, and *Vaccinium oxycoccos*. Other minerotrophic shrubs include *Lonicera villosa*, *Rhamnus alnifolia*, *Rubus acaulis*, *Rubus pubescens*, and *Salix pedicellaris*. Scattered, small (2-10 m) tree stems of *Larix laricina*, *Picea mariana*, and *Thuja occidentalis* are present at low cover. There is a diverse forb, graminoid, and moss cover, at least in the richer examples of this type. The graminoids include *Carex chordorrhiza*, *Carex lasiocarpa*, *Carex leptalea*, and *Eriophorum viridi-carinatum*. Forbs include *Drosera rotundifolia*, *Equisetum fluviatile*, *Maianthemum trifolium*, *Menyanthes trifoliata*, *Potentilla palustris*, *Sarracenia purpurea*, and *Solidago uliginosa*. The moss layer contains *Aulacomnium palustre*, *Pleurozium schreberi*, *Sphagnum angustifolium*, and *Sphagnum capillifolium*. Less frequent are *Campylium stellatum*, *Sphagnum fuscum*, and *Tomenthypnum nitens* (Harris *et al.* 1996).

**Globally**

The shrub cover is at least 25%, dominated by a combination of *Betula pumila* and ericaceous shrubs, including *Andromeda polifolia*, *Chamaedaphne calyculata*, *Ledum groenlandicum*, and *Vaccinium oxycoccos*. Other minerotrophic shrubs include *Lonicera villosa*, *Rhamnus alnifolia*, *Rubus acaulis*, *Rubus pubescens*, and *Salix pedicellaris*. Scattered, small (2-10 m) tree stems of *Larix laricina*, *Picea mariana*, and *Thuja occidentalis* are present at low cover. There is a diverse forb, graminoid, and moss cover, at least in the richer examples of this type. The graminoids include *Carex chordorrhiza*, *Carex lasiocarpa*, *Carex leptalea*, and *Eriophorum viridi-carinatum*. Forbs include *Drosera rotundifolia*, *Equisetum fluviatile*, *Maianthemum trifolium*, *Menyanthes trifoliata*, *Potentilla palustris*, *Sarracenia purpurea*, and *Solidago uliginosa*. The moss layer contains *Aulacomnium palustre*, *Pleurozium schreberi*, *Sphagnum angustifolium*, and *Sphagnum capillifolium*. Less frequent are *Campylium stellatum*, *Sphagnum fuscum*, and *Tomenthypnum nitens* (Harris *et al.* 1996).

CONSERVATION RANK G4G5.

DATABASE CODE Cegl002494

COMMENTS

**Voyageurs National Park**

Stands in the Rat Root River peatland were mapped as this type, but not visited. Further field checks are necessary to determine how well they correspond to the expected composition of this type.

REFERENCES

- Harris, A. G., S. C. McMurray, P. W. C. Uhlig, J. K. Jeglum, R. F. Foster, and G. D. Racey. 1996. Field guide to the wetland ecosystem classification for northwestern Ontario. Ont. Minist. Nat. Resour., Northwest Sci. Tech. Field Guide FG-01. Thunder Bay, Ont. 74 p.
- Minnesota Natural Heritage Program. 1993. Minnesota's native vegetation: A key to natural communities. Ver. 1.5. Minn. Dep. Nat. Resour., Nat. Heritage Prog. St. Paul, Minn. 110 p.